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NORTH PELHAM: Short Hills Fire & Rescue anxious for breathing room in \$1.4M facility

Sod turned for fire hall



GREG FURMINGER/QM AGENCY NIAGARA

Ground is broken April 17 for Pelham Fire Department's \$1.4-million Short Hills Fire & Rescue station on Cream St. in North Pelham, which will replace a temporary facility opened nearby on Sixteen Rd in 2001.

GREG FURMINGER
QM Agency Niagara

Ground has been broken on the \$1.4-million Short Hills Fire & Rescue station in North Pelham.

It will replace what was a "temporary" leased facility opened on Canada Day 2001, months after the City of Thorold divorced itself from a shared-use-facility arrangement in St. Johns with the Town of Pelham.

"This is a long time coming," Mayor Dave Augustyn said Thursday, just moments before he, architects and firefighters broke ground for the Cream St. project north of Sixteen Rd., and just around the corner from firefighters' present cramped quarters.

"Right now it's like a sardine can in there," fire Chief Bob Lymburner said after the ceremonies.

See HALL on Page 2



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UPFRONT

BIZ BUZZ

Beermaking is relative

It's an idea that has been brewing for years. It began with a lesson in a Grade 12 classroom at E.L. Crossley and has since bubbled into careers for two Pelham brothers.

When twins Asa and Colton Proveau chose to study the brewing industry, the then-teens never dreamed it would ignite their life passion.

Five years later, and now of legal drinking age, the pair have launched Brothers Brewing Co.

Getting the craft beer operation off the ground has been in their sights since high school graduation.

Asa enrolled in Niagara College's brewmaster and brewery management program and Colton in business administration at Brock University — each hoping to bring to the table the necessary skills to create a successful venture.

They don't yet have a brewery to call their own, but have been using the college's equipment to get their brand started.

To introduce Brothers Brewing to the community, the 21-year-old entrepreneurs are hosting a beer release party Saturday starting at 6 p.m.

Their beer will be regularly featured at Iggy's Pub and Grub, on Hwy. 20 in Pelham. The bar has 25 types of craft beer on tap.

The plan is to brew in a rotation, Colton said, with a



MELISSA HANDELSON/STAFF PHOTO

Pelham brothers Colton and Asa Proveau have launched a craft beer operation, Brothers Brewing Co.

different style of beer on tap at Iggy's every two weeks.

"We'll be testing different recipes," he said, while gaining feedback from hops enthusiasts on their likes and dislikes.

"So many craft brewers focus on one recipe. We want to be different."

During one visit to Iggy's,

one might find a darker Brothers' beer on tap and during the next, something on the lighter side, Colton said.

"There will be something that everyone can enjoy."

In the spotlight during Saturday's event will be the company's Tandem Pale Ale, described by Asa as "still

crafty but with more of an approachable style."

Colton is hopeful the event will attract not only beer lovers, but people who are experiencing craft beer for the first time.

"It's a chance for people to expand their horizons," he said.

The brothers each work

at different breweries in the Muskoka area, but travel back to Niagara on weekends to focus on the business.

Their hope is to eventually open their own facility in Pelham, waiting for further the craft beer movement in the region.

"There are more and more breweries coming to the area," Asa said.

"We can make Niagara region a beer destination. It's known for its wine, there's no reason it can't also be known for its beer."

To help make their hometown brewery a reality, the brothers have launched a Kickstarter campaign.

For more information, visit www.kickstarter.com/projects/718673282/brothers-brewing-company or www.facebook.com/brothersbrewingcompany.

Moku, a Hawaiian-themed restaurant opening in Fonthill in May, is having a job fair on Wednesday, April 23, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St. in Welland.

The restaurant is hiring hosts, kitchen and front-of-house supervisors, bartenders, prep and line cooks, dishwashers, cleaners, and servers. Smart Serve and safe food handling certificates are recommended.

For more information, call 905-778-3751.

If you have a business fit, send it to marjorie.firth@sunmedia.ca or call 905-732-2414 ext. 267.

■ HALL

Pelham to get new fire hall

From Page 1

The current Station 3 fire hall has no training or storage space, trucks must be moved out of garages in order for meetings to be held and it has been plagued with rodents since Day 1.

One of the challenges to finding a new spot to build is the ongoing Greenbelt development freeze, but the 2355 Cream St. property had been zoned for a trucking company prior to provincial restrictions being put into place. Approval agencies agreed a fire hall was a suitable build for the land, the mayor said.

Not only will the new fire hall be much bigger, it will include proper showers, two offices, a training facility and commercial kitchen.

"The next six months is going to be exciting," Lymburner said of construction that will start Monday.

"Certainly we can't wait until Oct. 16 when we plan on moving in," said District Chief Jim Waldeck.

Contracts for the project were awarded to Charter Building Co. and Raimondo & Associates Architects Inc.

The new fire hall will continue to house three trucks — pumper, rescue and tanker — and an ATV.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **EASTER:** Hundreds participate in egg hunts in Port Colborne, Welland and Pelham

Hunting for holiday treats

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

There was no shortage of golf balls to collect at Merritt Island, Saturday morning.

And it didn't matter how many of the brightly-coloured balls the hundreds of children managed to stuff into their baskets — they all got the same Easter treat when they cashed them in at the end of the 19th Annual Welland Easter Egg Hunt, organized by Welland volunteer firefighters Co. No. 1.

In addition to the Easter candy, there were also plenty of activities for the children such as games, inflatable attractions and face painting.

For the fourth year, proceeds from the event were donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara.

Big Brothers Big Sisters executive director Barb Van Der Heyden said there was a steady flow of families with children of all ages arriving for the event throughout the morning.

"The weather's beautiful. Who doesn't want to hunt for chocolates, play on bouncy games? It's a very good event every year and the community's always very good about supporting it."

She said benefitting financially from the event has been an incredible opportunity for the organization. In exchange for the much needed funding, she said most of the volunteers who participated were recruited by Big Brothers Big

Sisters.

"We have probably about 65 students here," she said. "We also have staff and board members and some of our regular volunteers."

Event chair, volunteer firefighter Steve Dube said it "is about kids helping kids," including the hundreds who participated as well as those assisted by Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"Those that come and participate will be helping those in need of having adult mentorship," he said in a prepared statement.

In Pelham, about 150 kilograms of chocolate disappeared in a matter of minutes when hundreds of children scoured Harold Black Park for foil wrapped Easter eggs.

The town's recreation, culture and wellness co-ordinator Jessica Ruddell said the 10th annual EGGetraganza Easter egg hunt, which began at 11 a.m. sharp, is "usually over quickly, and it's the easiest event to clean up after because there's never anything left."

By the time the children were finished, there was nothing but a few stray tin foil wrappers left on the field that had previously been covered with chocolate eggs.

Among the edible eggs, Ruddell said there were a few made out of golden plastic that could be exchanged for free movie passes.

Ruddell said the ground was still a little soggy Saturday morning, prompting many of

the youngsters to wear rubber boots as they hunted for the Easter treats.

"Pretty much every field is wet so we know this is the highest ground at this location, and that's why we had it on this field," she added, referring to the property near the baseball diamond.

Regardless, she said it was a beautiful day for the event, held to raise money for a fireworks display this summer. She said money from the sale of hot dog barbecued by volunteers from Enbridge, "as well as any donations at the gate are for Canada Day 2014."

Port Colborne events co-ordinator Gina Murdoch said nearly 200 people gathered at Roselawn Centre, Saturday morning for the community's second annual Easter Egg Hunt.

The children collected plastic Easter eggs, and traded them in for "goody bags."

Despite the great weather, Murdoch said the crowd was a little smaller than it was last year.

The event was free with a donation in 2013, and Murdoch suspects the drop in attendance was likely because of the \$2 admission charge.

But the kids that did participate received "quite a bit out of it, to be honest," she said.

In addition to the gift bags stuffed full of Easter treats, she said the children had a morning of entertainment during the event organized by the mayor's youth advisory council.



"They played music. They played a bunch of different games. The fire department

was there. There was face painting. It was pretty good that way," she said.

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**ALLAN BENNER/
QMI AGENCY
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Hundreds of children gathered at Harold Black Park in Pelham Saturday morning for the town's annual Easter egg hunt.

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Pelham Library, events for young and old

FRAN GILES

Pelham Public Library

Since I'm writing this on Good Friday, the excitement of the holiday weekend will be receding in the rearview mirror by the time you have an opportunity to read it. However, there are still some events to come. On April 28, there will be a giant clothing sale which will run until May 3. I won't be able to raise a lot of money for the library if we don't have enough clothes to sell, so, please, if you have spent some time over the weekend sorting out your closets, think of us. It's not too late yet.

On the same fundraising note, the gift basket silent auction will be continuing until May 2 at 4 p.m. At this time we will be notifying the lucky bidders. I am happy to be able to report that the bids have been rolling in. All you need to participate is a bidder number which you can get at the circulation desk at the Fonthill branch.

Also for adults, there are a number of events in the near future. There is the spring cardmaking workshop from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., May 6 (\$10, register in advance) and table-top photography with Peter Ferguson, "Learn to photograph family treasures in the comfort of your kitchen" on May 7, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (\$10, please pre-register). And don't forget the Mother's Day weekend art festival which runs from 7 p.m., May 9 until May 11, 5 p.m., at the arena. Give it a look! Reward all those artists for their efforts to produce a good show.

The brochure outlining the spring children's programs is out so it's time to register the little people for fun while learning. Babies to toddlers (newbies to 18 months), time for twos (18 to 36 months), and ready, set, learn (three to six years) entered to.

After the school is cool program joins readers in Grades 1 to 4 with an older child for reading encouragement as well as stories and crafts. Our Miss Jean brings her teacher training to help co-ordinate this weekly fun. And we mustn't forget Playdough club at the Maple Area Branch at 10 a.m., on all Fridays in May or Maple Area Co-op Club which is a once-a-month book club for children in Grades 5 to 8, May 29 and June 26, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Also for the kids is free comic book

day courtesy of Pop Comics in Niagara Falls. May 3 at the Fonthill Library. I hope that everyone, adults and children, have noticed the list of new DVDs to check-out at the Fonthill branch or at the Maple Area in Ferriwick. The list is changed for a new one each month so it is a good way to keep up to date with new media. (You can also see it on our website—go to Pinterest and look at the list there.)

When you see something you would like to view, you can put a hold on it as you check out your borrowings at the circulation desk in Fonthill or Ferriwick or you can do it yourself from the comfort of your home. Try it and see.

That seems to be all for this month.

See you at the Library!

COMMENT

Niagara's first Canadian conference

BRIAN BATTY

Niagara Regional councillor for the Town of Pelham

The City of Niagara Falls and Niagara Region are about to host the largest conference ever held in Niagara. It is the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference bringing mayors, councillors, Reeves, wardens and other officials and staff from all Canadian provinces and territories. In addition, it is customary to have some international guests. The conference will take place at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls with delegates booked at several major hotels. Over 2,000 participants are expected for this four day event from May 30 to June 2. The application made for this conference goes back to 2008 and it was the first conference booked at the Scotiabank Convention Centre. The FCM Niagara team has put considerable effort into the provision of advanced information to encourage stays prior to and after the event.

The kickoff event is the Mayor and Chair Welcome. The venue will occupy the entire council facility where all four table-top attractions will be available for delegates and companions as well as the view of the falls. Nighttime illumination and a fireworks

display should be spectacular. The Sunday gala will be held at the Fallsview Casino. WEGO passes will be available for delegates and companions and we are working to obtain passes to regional buses as well to allow everyone to explore Niagara. There are plenty of seminars and workshops at the Scotiabank Centre as well as a large trade show for the first two days of the conference. Study Tours and Companion Tours are provided for those wanting to explore Niagara outside the convention Centre.

Companion Tours are designed for the partners of the elected officials to savour Niagara while their partners are at work shops, plenary sessions, trade show or study tours. There are twelve companion tours over Friday and Saturday. Tours will take participants throughout Niagara to enjoy the scenery, historical locations, wineries, floral displays, orchards and water adventures. White Meadows Farm is the location for a luncheon break. It has been my observation that many companions get ideas from these tours to take a break on Sunday to bring their delegate partners to enjoy Niagara outside Niagara Falls.

Study Tours are 23 in number with all but two developed by the Niagara FCM team. By the design of study tours, there needs to be a showcase facility that allows an hour

or more for exploration. To this end we include venues such as the Niagara Interactive media centre, several Niagara Parks locations, the recycling centre and Brock's Bioscience Centre. Two lakefront enhancement tours will cover both Lake Ontario and Lake Erie communities. Walker Brothers will feature a tour on aggregates, waste management, composting and gas collection. Heartland Forest, Niagara College, the Queen Street District in Niagara Falls, Ball's Falls and the EMS centre will be featured. Henry of Pelham in St. Catharines and Pelham will feature a vine to wine tour. Lastly, there will be a tour of the Walker's Creek facility, the McBain Centre and the Boys and Girls Club in Niagara Falls and the Niagara Regional headquarters.

Pelham does not have major educational or governmental facilities located within its boundaries, nor does West Lincoln. To profile these communities, for the first time ever, we are planning onboard programs to showcase enroute to and from the study tour venues. In this way, all Niagara gets recognized for its diversity and excellence.

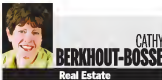
Brian Batty is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham and is the FCM Study Tours champion. batty@niagararegion.ca

First quarter home sales edge down

Unit sales of residential properties in Pelham dropped 14% during the first quarter of this year compared to the same time frame last year. According to MLS's system reports of the Niagara Association of REALTORS' there were 43 sales in Pelham so far this year down from the total of 50 sales reported during January-March 2013.

The slow down corresponds directly with the prolonged winter season that seems to have caused even the most ardent homebuyer to postpone house-hunting activities.

Interestingly enough the cold spring weather has not impacted sales results in the Rose City. First quarter sales in the City of Welland were up 15% over last year with a total of 157 sales recorded compared to 136 transactions during January-March 2013.



CATHY
BERKHOUT-BOSSE
Real Estate

In fact, Welland was the only one of Niagara's major cities to experience a sales surge during the month of March. St. Catharines with sales of 168 is down 6.7% from last year's March total of 180 units and in Niagara Falls unit sales dropped 27.7%, from a total of 108 transactions reported in March 2013 to 78 units during March 2014.

There were 70 March sales reported this year in Welland up 22.8% from last year's

total of 57 units sold. Pelham's March total of 17 transactions represents a 37% slide from last year's tally of 27 units sold.

In Pelham the 12 month average sale price was \$347,786—a spike of 5.4% from the March 2013 level of \$330,034 but down slightly from the figure of \$349,801 recorded in February 2014. In Welland the March 2014, 12 month average price was \$187,097 virtually no change from last year's \$187,270.

The month of April will be an important indicator of sales predictions for the remainder of the year. Should sales continue to slide in Pelham, you can expect a corresponding cool down in average price growth during the Spring market season.

Cathy Berkhout-Bosse, H.B.A. is a real estate broker at ReMax Welland Realty Ltd. living in Pelham. You may read past columns at www.NiagaraRealtySource.com

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **BIG BROTHERS/SISTERS:** Organization that has helped thousands of young people celebrates 50 years

Mentoring program stands the test of time

ALLAN BENNER
QMI Agency Niagara

Lorrie Poehlman's childhood experience inspired her lifelong commitment to mentoring programs.

As one of eight children being raised by a single mother, Poehlman needed help. And she turned to a mentorship program run by her church—before the Big Brothers Big Sisters program was available in her community.

"It was a very good experience for me," she recalled. "That's the reason I got into the field. It was to be a mentor to someone else."

Poehlman first joined Big Sisters in 1996, and she's remained with the organization ever since.

She was matched with a girl, Christine—a girl just like herself growing up in a needy family.

"Last year, Christine invited me to her wedding. That was a huge experience for me,"

Poehlman said, smiling. "I was mentored, and she taught me how to mentor Christine. And I'm hoping that Christine, when her boys grow up, that she'll be able to mentor someone. It's a pattern. It's very exciting."

Christine is one of untold thousands of young people who the south Niagara agency has assisted in the 50 years since it was founded. Last year alone, 800 young people were paired up with a big brother or sister, said executive director Barb Van Der Heyden.

She said there have been a lot of changes since the board of directors of the original Big Brothers of Welland County held its first meeting on April 23, 1964.

But the underlying idea of helping young people through providing mentorships has remained the same.

After looking through old board meeting minutes, Van Der Heyden said it was clear

the board members from the 1960s often dealt with the same issues as they deal with today—issues like ensuring there's enough funding, as well as volunteers to meet the needs of the children.

But there are also some significant differences, such as higher standards for volunteers.

"In 50 years there have been a lot of changes with regards to child safety," she said.

Van Der Heyden said one significant change happened within the last decade—the merger of Big Brothers and Big Sister organizations. And more recently, they again merged with the mentorship agencies in Fort Erie.

Poehlman said the merger of south Niagara area Big Brothers and Big Sisters organizations has helped them remain sustainable, with less money to go around.

"It's probably better because there are less asks to

the United Way for money," she said.

"We were probably one of the last agencies to merge. We were staying true to the Big Sisters. But it all worked out well because all of the kids get good service now."

The organization is planning a celebration of its 50th anniversary Wednesday at its offices in the Seaway Mall.

Van Der Heyden said there will be exhibits of each of the decades since the organization was founded.

"Every 10 years there will be a selection of pictures, activities that have happened, and some of board members that were present and significant contributors," she said.

It begins at 4 p.m., and the official ceremony is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

She said the event "is really the kickoff of the year for us."

It is focused on recognizing and thanking all the volunteers—including board



ALLAN BENNER/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

There have been a lot of changes since Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara was first formed on April 23, 1964, but Lorrie Poehlman, left, and Barb Van Der Heyden said the organization's focus has always been helping children excel.

members, staff, adult mentors, as well as their little honorary siblings.

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■ COLUMN

Residents pay exorbitant fees to get medical records

Late in 2013, several Ontario MPPs spoke about the need to pass a regulation to protect Ontario residents from having to pay exorbitant fees to access their own medical records.

Yet here we are in April 2014 and the problem hasn't been fixed.

Worse, the Ontario Liberal government has known about this problem since at least 2006, when a regulation limiting fees was proposed but never proclaimed as law.

In 2008, Ontario's Information and privacy commissioner, Ann Cavoukian, publicly asked the government to regulate fees patients were charged to obtain copies of their health records.

In 2010, Liberal MPP David Caplan, a former Ontario health minister, put forward a private member's bill on this issue.

But apparently our provincial government is too busy to deal with such a small problem.

After all, who really cares what we have to pay to obtain a copy of our own medical files?

Well, just wait until one of your doctors retires and you have to pay \$200 to have your file retrieved.

Or wait until you need some records for a personal injury case and have to pay \$120 for nine pages of notes, or \$350 for six pages.

How about \$500 for a five-page print-out of notes, or \$100 for a three-page summary of prescriptions from your pharmacist?

These just are a few of the examples provided by Liberal MPP Bob Delaney at Queen's Park in late 2013 when he demonstrated the need for a regulatory remedy.

The numbers are all over the place because there's no law governing what custodians of medical information can charge.

Many take advantage of this regulatory gap to gouge patients. Usually, the medical records are sought by a lawyer for purposes of a lawsuit.

Lawyers don't care about the amounts charged because it's their clients who have to pay for these out-of-pocket disbursements.

Often, these amounts are reimbursed by an insurance company as part of a settlement. But not always.

Medical records may be required to process a disability claim, to apply under the Ontario Disability Support Program, or to apply for social assistance under Ontario Works.

Often people with disabilities have lengthy medical records, resulting in large fees.

Not all medical professionals overcharge their patients, nor does every pharmacist, but there's no excuse for this regulatory gap.

Some professionals will reduce their fee if asked by their patients, but why should anybody be put in that position?

Many hospitals charge reasonable fees.

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre has an electronic records system and allows patients to access and print many records online, without a fee.

This issue doesn't apply to situations where professionals are asked to prepare reports or provide a summary of records. Professionals are entitled to be fairly compensated for these tasks, although too many charge excessive amounts for them, thinking an insurance company will pick up the tab.

Personal injury lawyer Roger Foley has long advocated for government regulation, pointing out that Ontario Medical Association recommendation that physicians charge \$30 for the first 20 pages and 25 cents for additional pages is not normally followed.

He also points out the OMA recommendation doesn't apply to clinics that employ chiropractors or physiotherapists.

According to Foley, the excessive fees impact clients' net settlement values and increase costs for insurance companies thereby contributing to higher premiums.

While the Ontario government is otherwise occupied and apparently unable to proclaim a simple regulation — after all there must be so many stakeholders who have yet to be consulted — there is something you can do if faced with an exorbitant bill for your medical records.

First, ask to have the fee reduced. If you don't want to do that or it doesn't work, you can file a complaint with Ontario's (or your own province's) Information and Privacy Commission.

If they believe the fee is too high they can interfere and have the fee reduced.

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RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASSES

Zumba Fitness @ Pelham Arena

Tuesday Apr 29 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Thursday May 1 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Drop in and try any session for \$6 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for \$60. For more information on any of the Zumba classes, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Zumba Gold @ Pelham Arena

Tuesday Apr 29 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! - Apr 29 and May 1

Interested in walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join us! Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30 am. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Summer Programs - Aquatics & Summer Camps

Registration is now open for swimming lessons, Lifesaving Training Programs, the Pelham Penguins Swim Team and the Triathlon Club, Summer Day Camps, Playground Program, Specialty Camps: Bike Camp; Art Camp; Sports Camp; You're the Chef Camp. Registration forms are available at pelham.ca and at Town Hall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

Community Clean Up Days - Help Keep Pelham Beautiful - Corporate Challenge Day: Thursday, April 24; Student Participation Day: Friday, April 25; Community Clean Up Day: Saturday, April 26 - 9:00am to 12:00pm at Centennial Park, 999 Church Street. Barbeque lunch provided. Thanks to the Fenwick Lions Club & Tim Hortons for their contributions. Register at pelham.ca.

Communities In Bloom - Spring Gardening Series with Karin Vermeer - Thursday, May 8 at 7pm. Topic: Container Gardening. Venue: Café en Main. **Only \$5.00 per session!** Registration and payment required in advance. Please contact the Town of Pelham at 905-892-2607 ext. 329 or jcook@pelham.ca.

Pelham Mayor's Gala Tickets Now Available - On Saturday, May 24th, 2014, Mayor Dave Augustyn and community volunteers will host the Sixth Annual Pelham Mayor's Gala at Lookout Point Golf & Country Club. Tickets are "NOW" available and sell out fast! Individual tickets are available for purchase at \$135 each. Partnerships are also available through the "NEW" Mayor's Gala Champions Program. Please contact 905-892-2607 ext. 337 or mtoscher@pelham.ca.

Come join Pelham's 2014 Heritage Tea Committee! We are eager to have you share your talents and help us plan our annual Heritage Tea Celebration happening on Saturday, June 28, 2014. If interested, please contact 905-892-2607 ext. 329.

Summerfest Vendor Applications - It's time to start planning to "Chill on the Hill"! Vendor applications for Pelham Summerfest are now available on pelhamsummerfest.ca.

DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN FOR FENWICK AND FONTHILL - OPEN HOUSES



Get Informed

The Downtown Master Plan provides an urban design vision and guidance for the long-term development of the downtowns of:

- Fenwick
- Fonthill
- East Fonthill

Get Engaged

Open Houses

Thursday May 8th, 2014

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Pelham Fire Station Two (766 Welland Road, Fenwick)

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Pelham Fire Station One (177 Highway 20 West, Fonthill)

Get Connected

Contact the Town of Pelham Community Planning & Development Department

pelham.ca/departement/community-planning-development



LOCAL NEWS



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Fonthill Lions



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fred Arbour, left, and Doug Gaylor, right, of the Fonthill Lions presented a cheque for \$425 to Jim Szeplaki of Pelham Youth Soccer Club for the sponsorship of one team. The Fonthill Lions Club also provided a location for the Pelham Youth Soccer Club to hold its business meetings.



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▲ Forecasts are provided by the insurance industry for Highway Safety (HSI) (www.hsi.org). To qualify for 2014 TOP SAFETY PICK+, a vehicle must earn good ratings in the moderate overlap front, side, and strength and head restraint tests, a good or acceptable rating in the frontal overlap front test, and a 5-star, advanced or superior rating for most crash prevention. *MSRP of \$29,998 or 2014 Forester 2.5i LEV 300. Lease rate of 0.9% for 24 months. Monthly payment is \$287 with \$2,662 down payment. Option to purchase at end of lease is \$19,325 with \$2,335 fee on signing. Advertised pricing excludes all taxes, license, registration and insurance rate extra. \$0 security deposit. Model shown is 2014 Forester 2.5i Limited Package 3.0T 17 with an MSRP of \$33,200. Dealers may call or come for this or any other car or truck. There are no up-front costs at participating dealers only. Lease based on a maximum of 10,000 km per year, with excess charged at \$0.15/km. Leasing and financing programs available through Subaru Financial Services by TD. Offer based on finance rates and terms available, down payment or equivalent trade-in may be required. Vehicle shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. Offers available until April 30, 2014. See your local Subaru dealer for complete program details.



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■ **EDUCATION:** Students are turning a new page at Glynn A. Green Public School

New chapter for Fonthill school library

GREG FURNINGER
PelhamNews Staff

Students at one Fonthill school are closing the books on a library that doesn't allow food, games or loud talking.

A new chapter is starting at Glynn A. Green Public School, where an ambitious fundraising campaign has been launched to transform its sterile, antiquated library into a "library commons" complete with

modern technology, couches and laughter.

"It'll be more of a Chapters-like place," principal Todd Bright said in comparing imminent change to the popular book-store setting.

The \$68,470 project will mostly be financed through donations from the school community, with some contributions from Glynn A. Green's technology and renovations allowances from District School

Board of Niagara.

The school advisory committee started talking about upgrading the library last fall. Since then \$5,000 has been funneled to the project through last year's Pelham Mayor's Gal and its grants allocation team.

"We thought it was a fabulous idea," Mayor Dave Augustyn said.

Bright, who is new to Glynn A. Green and who learned much about modern library needs when he helped in the design process for Forestview Public School in Niagara Falls five years ago, said he envisions change happening by Christmas.

"Glynn A. Green's is a traditional library, probably a library we remember when we went to school," said the educator of 27 years.

"Certainly that concept has changed in North America."

He said a school library should be "the hub of the school, the learning centre," adding that concept is embraced by the board, which has provided a library consultant for the project.

The library commons will be a place for kids to hang out, do homework, make use of computer technology and play games. The principal noted the

school's chess club now meets in a hallway.

There will also be opportunities for the facility to be used by external community groups and the YMCA day-care centre — which has been housed more than 15 years in a portable at the Pelham St. school but will be moving inside Glynn A. Green.

Project committee chair Jennifer McGregor said students will be opportunities for donors to have naming rights to certain sections of the expanded library or have plaques affixed to chairs and other new amenities.

Students have been promot-

ing the need for new resources, including books, through posters and the sale of bookmarks. Eighth-graders Duncan Glancy and Brodie Alderliche have even created three- and six-minute promotional videos.

"A lot of the money is being contributed through the students and their ideas," McGregor said.

Within one week, \$1,000 has been raised.

Sponsorship inquiries are being directed to gaglibraryproject@outlook.com.

greg.furninger@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @GregATheTrib

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GREG FURNINGER/STAFF PHOTO

Emma McGregor, a Grade 3 student at Glynn A. Green Public School, looks forward to new books in a more comfortable seating area when the school library is transformed into a casual commons area. Fundraising for the \$68,470 project has commenced.



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 Sun Media Niagara Sold Auction begins Friday April 18 on Monday April 21 at 9:00 pm. The Auction is run online and is subject to all rules and regulations available at www.sunmediaauctions.com. The sale will end at 9:00 pm on Monday April 28, the sale will end at expiration times.
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 The bidding is open to anyone 18 years of age or over. Entities, businesses may bid, but not on items that are provided by the companies. You must provide a valid credit card at time of registration.
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 NO. Successful bidders will be responsible for all applicable taxes on the items they purchase. The taxes will be collected for all items applicable. There will be no gst charged on true Gift Certificates.
- ▶ What is the reserve bid?**
 The reserve bid is the lowest amount that can be bid for an item and still win the item. All items have a reserve bid of 50% of the Retail Value. Bids under the reserve amount will not be accepted.
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 Your payment will be automatically processed on the day of the auction. If the amount of your purchase exceeds \$10,000.00, you must pay to the St. Catharines Standard in person with an amount of cash or Money Order no later than the day your payment has been processed you will be notified from the auction site. If you have purchased a item from the participating vendor to pick up your item or your certificate along with picture identification. The deadline is May 1, 2014. If you have purchased a item from the participating vendor to pick up. You will be required to bring with identification in order to pick up gift certificate to pick up after May 1, 2014.
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▶ Auction listings available for viewing & bidding starting at 9:00am Friday, April 25, 2014

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■ LIFESTYLES: Fonthill and District Kinsmen bring fundraiser back to arena

Pelham Home Show ushering in summer

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Pelham News Staff

Forget spring — Fonthill and District Kinsmen Club is already ushering in summer.

The 19th annual Pelham Home Show, happening Friday to Sunday at Pelham Arena, is considered the first "official" event leading up to Pelham's warmest season.

"It's been a really long and punishing winter. The home show is a great chance for people to come out and check out local businesses as well as get some ideas for sprucing up their homes for the spring and summer," said Kim Kevin Twomey.

The initial concept for the show was to bring local vendors and businesses together with local customers.

"It allows businesses to showcase their stuff. With it being the first real event of summer, people are looking forward to getting out and socializing," he said.

New this year is the Home for Good art contest, which involves students from local schools.

"We wanted to include the students of Pelham to help spread awareness of the

need of Pelham Cares in the community," Twomey said.

The \$3 admission fee will go to support Pelham Cares Home for Good Capital Campaign.

The money raised from booth rentals will go back to the community.

"It's important that the community supports us so we can continue to support the community," he said. "We have a lot of great events in Pelham, but without community support they wouldn't be able to run anymore."

Over its 19 years the home show has grown to about 80 display booths and attracts more than 2,000 people.

"We have people from all over south Niagara coming to this. Whether it's to display or check out the local businesses. We see a lot of support from Wainfleet and Dunnville," said Twomey. "This is an event where everyone wins — the community, Pelham Cares and the businesses."

For more information, call 905-346-8288 or e-mail fonthillkinsmen@hotmail.com.

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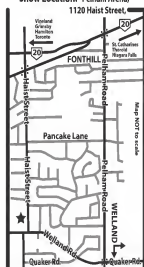
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LOCAL NEWS

■ **INNOVATION:** New grape-drying chamber developed at Vineland research centre

Scientist hopes he invented the next grape thing

BOB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

It's a method of drying wine grapes that's been around as long as wine, but it's never been quite like this before.

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre scientist Bernard Goyette has invented a chamber that allows wine-makers to dry grapes appassimento-style while controlling climate, air flow and humidity using a unique method.

The appassimento process is one where grapes grown in cool climates with shorter growing seasons are harvested before they suffer frost bite, but are allowed to ripen further indoors.

While indoors the grapes dry out, leading to wines that are more complex and bold in flavour. There is less juice when the grapes are crushed to make wine, however, the juice that remains is less acidic but higher in sugar content — measured in degrees brix in the wine industry.

Freshly harvested grapes in Ontario are typically 22 brix, whereas grapes dried via the appassimento process can reach 28 brix. Because there is less wine made using the appassimento process, the price of the end product is higher.

The Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute were working with Ontario wineries to study different grape-drying techniques, such as kilns and greenhouse drying, when Graham Rennie of Rennie Estate Winery approached the centre in 2011 with the idea of developing a proprietary method.

The winery owner wanted a system with a climate and humidity-controlled setting that would allow grapes to slowly continue to ripen for 60 to 100 days after harvest, intensifying the flavours.

"Here in Ontario, we're looking at the window that we have to harvest the

grapes before the big frost comes and we lose our crop," Rennie said in explaining how the grapes are harvested even though they could benefit from extra time on the vine. "The Ontario grape grower is always being challenged by trying to figure out where can I get this ripening, how can I get to the very peak of ripening that I want to make the best wine that I can."

Rennie travelled to Italy and studied the appassimento process at two big producers of wine.

"They were using very hi-tech and innovative methods for drying the grapes," Rennie said. "All customized rooms controlling temperature, humidity, air flow."

Not having those resources when he returned home, he went about using a greenhouse to dry grapes.

Over two years, he said, he lost about 25% of the grapes to mold because he could not control humidity and the grapes he didn't lose dried out too quickly.

There had to be a better way. Off to the Vineland research centre he went, to ask for help from CEO Jim Brande.

"I said, this is what I'm doing. I need some help, you guys have a lot of smart engineers here, could we work together?"

Enter Bernard Goyette, a scientist at the research centre.

As Rennie continued to describe to Brande what he was looking for, Goyette was working things through.

"About 15 minutes later as I finish talking, he (Goyette) has a piece of paper in front of him and he turns it around, shoves it across and says, 'Is this what you're looking for?' I said, 'Yeah, it's perfect.'"

Goyette and Rennie were soon joined by John Young, owner of Angels Gate Winery, and the trio worked to turn the

rendition into a prototype.

The first prototype was a cold room with a heating system that to manage humidity and fans for

airflow.

"It was a system based on the forced-air cooling system that exists on the market — tunnel

type with horizontal flow," Goyette said.

See WINE on Page 20

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■ WINE

Method of drying grapes gets second-wind

From Page 19

Think air moving east and west over grapes sitting in stacked plastic pallets.

He said the system worked relatively well, but there were some mold issues and it was labour-intensive moving the grapes around so they all had air moving over them.

"It was a good start," Goyette said.

"In 2012, we improved the system, we did some innovation on the airflow. Instead of having a horizontal airflow, we have a vertical airflow."

Think air moving north to south.

The new system involves pulling the air through the chamber from the sealing to the floor.

"This is the patented process now," Goyette said. "We use the pallets as a duct system to conduct the air, it is connected to a plenum where we create a negative pressure that pulls the air."

The new method means an uniform dry

time for the grapes in the chamber, Goyette and Rennie said.

Now that the technology has been patented by Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, the next step is building four 7.5-metre by 9-metre prototype chambers to be used at wineries this fall. Rennie and Goyette said the units will cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

Goyette said Vineland Research and Innovation Centre is looking to licence the technology to a manufacturer.

Goyette said he envisions a "slow start" to sales, but that over the next 10 years, as the technology proves itself, more and more wineries will get onboard.

"The dream would be," Rennie said, "that other cool climate growing regions in North America would find this technique to be value added."

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PELHAM DATEBOOK

APRIL 25

WELLAND MUSEUM TRIVIA

Night is at Welland Community Wellness Complex. Doors open at 7 p.m., game begins at 7:30 p.m., \$20 air person. Tickets can be reserved by calling the museum at 905-732-2215. Pizza, door prizes and fun for all.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

at Fonthill United Church at 5:30 p.m. (one sitting only). Adults \$10, children to age 12 \$5, Family maximum \$30. UICW bake sale in the narthex. Phone 892-6433 Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings to reserve tickets.

APRIL 25-27

PELHAM HOME SHOW

presented by Fonthill and District Kinsmen at Pelham Arena. Exhibitor applications at www.fonthillkinsmen.ca. For information contact 905-346-8288 or fonthillkinsmen@hotmail.com.



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APRIL 26

RCAC

Royal Canadian Air Force Association 434 & 484 Wings holds its annual joint meeting at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613, Hwy. 20, Fonthill, at 2 p.m. Guest speaker is Sam Newman, former captain with United Nations Peace Keeping Force, he is also past-president of the Air Force Association Ontario Group. All welcome. Refreshments provided. This topic will be of interest to any former UN personnel and all veterans.

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Lions Hall, Hwy 20, at 7 p.m. Cost \$5 a person. Prizes light food, cash bar.

APRIL 28

CLOTHING SALE

at Pelham Public Library. All sizes and styles. Retro, accessories, bedding, curtains and more. Starts at 10 a.m. and ends Saturday, May 3, at 5 p.m. On the final day fill a garbage bag for \$5.

MAY 2

GIANT FLEA MARKET

at Fonthill United Church, also May 3, 8 a.m. to noon both days. A selection of treasures and bargains for home, garden and recreation. Children's toys, too.

Continued on Page 22

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From Page 21

MAY 3

CRAFT, PLANT AND BAKE SALE

for the Wheels for VanDriels fundraiser, at 1040 Balfour Ave. In Fenwick. Runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and include a kids play zone, vendors, silent auction and quilt raffle. Refreshments available.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

Come in to Pelham Public Library and pick up your free comic book courtesy of Pulp Comics in Niagara Falls.

MAY 6

CARDMAKING WORKSHOP

Learn different techniques to make cards suitable for a number of occasions, at Pelham Public Library, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 and includes most materials. Register ahead.

MAY 7

DRUG ABUSE TALK

Renowned drug expert Dr. Patrick Sammon will speak at Notre Dame College School on alcohol, illegal drug and prescription drug abuse and the effects it has on children, families, schools and community. Runs 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. / No cost. For more information call 905-788-3060.

TABLE-TOP PHOTOGRAPHY

Learn to photograph family treasures in the comfort of your kitchen. Award-winning photographer Peter Ferguson leads this informative workshop at Pelham Public Library. Bring your camera and at least one object to

photograph. Time 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost \$10. Register ahead.

MAY 9, 10, 11

PELHAM ART FESTIVAL

takes place at Pelham Arena on Halst St. Fonthill, Friday 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more details, visit www.pelhamartfestival.com.

MAY 10

CENOTAPH WALKATHON

hosted by Wainfleet Lions Club starts 9:30 a.m. at the Wainfleet Firefighters Memorial Hall. Pledge sheets are available at the township office, library, Wainfleet Avondale Donut Diner, Jackson's Auto Body and Wellandport Home Hardware & Farm Supply Store. For more information, contact the Lions Clubs' Martin VanGool at 905-835-8423 or George DeRuyte at 289-820-6163.

MAY 12

EMPLOYMENT HELP

Learn about the Second Career program. Presented by Niagara College Employment and Training Solutions, at Pelham Public Library 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Register ahead at 905-892-6443.

AUTHOR VISIT

Welland writer Ron Schairick, nominated for the Journey Prize, talks about interpreters, a collection of loosely linked short stories set in both Korea and Canada, during his 7:30 p.m. appearance at Pelham Public Library. Cost \$5. Register in advance.

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SPORTS

Cyclone play Blue Devils to scoreless draw



PHOTO PROVIDED

E.L. Crossley's Lisa Gearing, with the ball, is pressed by two Ridgeway-Crystal Beach defenders and backed up teammate Hayley Vanderzanden in Niagara Cup single A and double A girls high school soccer action April 14, at Youngs Sportsplex in Welland, where the teams played to a scoreless draw.

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■ HOCKEY

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BERND FRANK
QMI Agency Niagara

Robert Stanley was run off his feet — and off his skates — in a two-sport tripleheader that left the E.L. Crossley Secondary School with little time to rest and catch his breath.

After playing defence for the Cyclone in a field lacrosse doubleheader Thursday morning at Kiwanis Field in St. Catharines, Stanley traded his long pole for a hockey stick and patrolled the blue-line in the District School Board of Niagara's boys high school hockey all-star game that afternoon at the Leisure-

plex in Fort Erie.

Unlike the other players in a shinny showcase that pitted Stanley's Zone 3 squad against the best players from Zone 4, rust wasn't much of a factor for him in his first hockey game in about a month. Already in shape from facing St. Francis and Governor Simcoe just hours before in Canada's national summer game, Stanley found his stride mid-way into the second period playing our national winter game leading Zone 3 to a 6-2 victory.

See **HOCKEY** on Page 26

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■ HOCKEY

Crossley goaltender solid

From Page 24

"It felt a little weird stepping on the ice. I kind of blew a tire at the beginning. It took a couple of periods to get going," he said

between breaths after collecting a game-high three points on a goal and two assists.

Stanley's busy day wasn't over when he accepted his gold

medal and MVP trophy at the all-star game. He had to put his sneakers back on for still more lacrosse, this time for the sport's indoor version as a member of

the Junior B Welland Generals.

The renamed Welland Warlords conducted a two-hour practice Thursday night to prepare for their final exhibition game against the Clarington Green Gaels Saturday afternoon at Welland Arena.

While Stanley likes both sports, he prefers playing lacrosse.

"I like the defensive aspect about lacrosse," said Stanley, who was the Junior B lacrosse team's top defensive player in his rookie season last year.

Sir Winston Churchill goaltender Scott Lisko was the player of the game for Zone 4. Like everyone else on the ice, his hockey legs were a little wobbly after not seeing any action for a month.

"It's tough getting back into hockey when you're already thinking about other sports," said Lisko, who has spent the past two weeks working on his golf swing at the driving range. He didn't begin getting into a groove until the second period.

The 12th student said all-star games can be difficult for goaltenders. Not only do they need to scout the opposition, they need time to get used to the players on their own team, he said.

"You have no idea of who you're playing with or what you're up against."

Lisko's Bulldogs lost the Southern Ontario Secondary School Association final to Denis Morris by the identical score, but he took this 6-2 setback in stride.

"Winning is always nice, but whenever you play in an all-star game it's always a privilege. Win or lose, it's a fun game."

Danny Gearing, Crossley: Nathan MacDuff, Jean Vanier; Jacob Roy, Ridgeway-Crystal Beach; Michael Mayes, Vanier; and Jacob Roy, Port High; rounded out the scoring for Zone 3. Dan Williams and Landon Wilson, both from Eden, replied for Zone 4.

Churchill's Corey Gorbell won the shootout skills competition.

All-stars were selected by the coaches of their high school teams.

Zone 3's squad, which was coached by Eden parent volunteer Wayne Chapman, featured five players each from Crossley and Ridgeway and four apiece from Port High and Vanier.

Eight Churchill players, three from Eden and two from Beamsville made up the Zone 4 team, coached by Churchill's Jake McIntosh.

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SPORTS

■ **AUTO RACING:** Driver use test and tune session to get ready for racing season at Merrittville Speedway

Drivers tune up for racing

BERND FRANK
QMI Agency Niagara

Merrittville Speedway hosted auto racing's version of spring training Saturday and Mother Nature, as anxious to finally emerge from the shadow of Old Man Winter as the drivers were to start the 2014 season, couldn't have been more co-operative.

Bright sunshine took much of the bite out of winter tempera-

tures that, thankfully, were more suited for hoodies than parkas, and what precipitation there was came from a watering truck that prepared the track for practice laps in five racing divisions.

Upwards of 40 drivers who attended a test and tune session Saturday at the Thorold track could have done without the wind, but two out of three ain't bad after a winter that felt like it

would never go away.

The one-day warmup to next weekend's Spring Sizzler season opener started with drivers taking turns having their cars inspected. Track officials looked under the hood and crawled under the tires to ensure the customized vehicles met the specifications in the various racing classes at Merrittville, a popular stop on a weekend circuit that starts Fridays at

Oshewen and western New York before wrapping up Sunday at New Humberstone Speedway in Port Colborne.

Drivers also had the opportunity to have their vehicles weighed at the test and tune. Each racing class has a minimum weight and top five finishers on race nights risk disqualification if they run too light.

"I'm really skinny, so I have to carry a lot of weight," quipped Adam Leslie, 24, a Port Colborne driver who has 100 pounds of lead strategically bolted to the chassis of his sportsman car in order to keep it aerodynamic while meeting the minimum standard.

A general mechanic heading into his fifth sportsman season and ninth overall at Merrittville, Leslie used the tune portion of the test and tune to "set up" his car. He said adjusting the tension on the front and rear suspensions allows him to lift and lower each end of the car.

"You do what works best for the track," said Leslie, who also races regularly at New Humberstone, his hometown track. Drivers in the sportsman division can also adjust the pressure in each tire depending on how the track "feels" in warmups, he said.

Aaron Wiley of Wellandport, who competes in the four-cylinder mini stocks class, had two cars inspected at the test and tune — his wife Jocelyn's and one that will be driven by his 14-year-old son Kurtis.

Wiley hoped that wind wouldn't be a factor in his son's introduction to Merrittville's outside track.

"Nothing dries out a track faster than wind. If you want to get a true feel for a track, it has to be calm," said Aaron, a veteran driver who calls "reading the track" the most important part of a race plan.

He said the key to winning at Merrittville, for instance, is cornering into the long straightaway at the D-shaped, dirt track.

"You get the hang of the No. 4 corner here and your season is made," Wiley said.

Kurtis Wiley is a Merrittville rookie in 2014, though only when it comes to competing on the larger of the speedway's two tracks. Before racing sportsman last season at New Humberstone, he spent five years racing go karts on Merrittville's inside track.

Kurtis, a Grade 9 student at Beausville District Secondary School, said the transition to mini stocks from go karts took him five to six weeks.

"The first thing you realize is the difference in the size. It's a lot more car to turn around," he said.

Kurtis had a fifth-place and was in the running for two thirds before being knocked out of contention in his 24-race rookie season in the sportsman class.

bernd.frank@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @TribSportsGuy



BERND FRANK/STAFF PHOTO

Inspector Mark Chapman checks the tires and suspension to make sure a race car meets specifications in the 358 modified class at a test and tune session Saturday at Merrittville Speedway.



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**ZOSTAVAX: PREVENT SHINGLES
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Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox (varicella-zoster virus). After the chickenpox blisters heal, the virus remains dormant in nerve cells in your body. It can become reactivated after many years resulting in shingles. It is not known exactly why the virus becomes reactivated, however it is thought that having a weakened immune system along with physical trauma, UV light or stress may play a role. The risk of developing shingles increases with age and people over 50 years old are at the greatest risk. The symptoms include a painful, blistering rash that often breaks out in one part of the body, usually the chest or upper back are involved. Sometimes the pain resulting from shingles can last for weeks, months, or rarely years, after the rash heals. This lasting pain has been described as burning, aching, throbbing or stabbing and can result from something as little as a breeze or the touch of clothing on the skin. Older people are again at greater risk. Shingles may also result in skin infections at the site of the rash or scarring following healing of the rash.

Fortunately, a vaccine is now available to boost your immune system and help to prevent shingles and its complications. It is called Zostavax and is available to adults over 50 years old. The vaccine cannot be used if you are already experiencing symptoms of shingles; it is only used for prevention. The vaccine is given as a single dose by injection just under the skin of the upper arm by a doctor or trained nurse. As all medicines and vaccines can have side effects, some people may experience redness, pain, swelling, or bruising at the site of injection or headache. These are the most common unwanted effects, but they are usually minor. This vaccine was found to reduce the risk of developing shingles by about 50-70% (depending on your age) within the first year after receiving the vaccine. Zostavax must be stored frozen below -15 degrees Celsius until the day it is to be used. Only a few pharmacies currently have the correct storage facilities for this vaccine to be able to stock it. Zostavax is available from all of the Boggio Family of Pharmacy locations.

Zostavax is safe for most people, however it should not be used by anyone who:

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- TAKES HIGH DOSES OF STEROIDS (E.G., PREDNISONE, METHYLPREDNISOLONE) BY INJECTION OR BY MOUTH

Since this is a relatively new vaccine, it is not known if it will provide protection from shingles for longer than 4 years.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist for more information and advice about shingles and to find out if the Zostavax vaccine is right for you.

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